Center gets federal award

The University's Center for Community Asset Building has been honored by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for its community development work in Benton Harbor.

The center received a Local Best Practice Award from federal officials Aug. 24 for its outreach work in linking the expertise of WMU faculty, staff and students to the social, physical and economic development needs of Benton Harbor.

The center focuses its efforts on identifying proven effective practices from many areas that could be replicated in Benton Harbor. Such "best practices" include a wide range of techniques that have worked elsewhere on such issues as housing, crime, delinquency, pregnancy prevention, health care, education reform, employment, economic development and infrastructure restoration.

AFSCME, University reach tentative three-year pact

Representatives from Local 1668 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Michigan AFSCME Council 25, and the University reached tentative agreement on a three-year labor contract Aug. 26.

Details of the agreement are being withheld pending ratification by the union membership and approval by the Board of Trustees. The union membership will vote on the tentative agreement Wednesday, Sept. 6. Pending union ratification, University trustees will vote on the new contract at the board's next regular meeting, which is scheduled for Friday, Sept. 15.

Redesign of News is first style change in two decades

Readers will notice that this issue of Western News has a new look. The new masthead design and the updated look for the entire publication is the work of Neil Simon, a graphic designer in the Office of University Relations. The new design represents the first major change to Western News in more than 20 years.

Arboretum project will provide new student apartments for 680

With student housing options filled to capacity, the University has begun construction of 240 student apartments in the Arboretum development east of Drake Road and north of Michigan Avenue. The 22-acre parcel is part of a 183-acre site owned by the WMU Foundation. Two years ago, the university began planning an overall development of the entire site into a housing development that would include single family homes and condominiums, as well as student housing. That plan was to be done under the management of Capstone Development of Birmingham, Ala.

Federal grant boosts classroom technology

A national effort to promote better use of technology in the classroom has landed the College of Education more than $1.1 million in grants as well as a mention by President Clinton.

The 22-acre parcel is part of 122 new federal grants totaling $43 million that were announced recently by President Clinton during his weekly radio address. In announcing the 122 grants, Clinton singled out two grants as examples—one at WMU and the other at San Diego State University.

The President reported to the nation that "a grant to Western Michigan University...will be used to build partnerships with business leaders and local school districts to help future teachers use technology in the classroom."

Funded through the Preparing Tomorrow's Teachers project, grants are made available to help teachers implement technology in the classroom. The effort is designed to ensure that all WMU students who become certified teachers meet the newly published national technology standards for teachers using and integrating technology in their classrooms.

The University is considering its primary implementation grant project Collaborative Learning and Teaching Through Technology and is joining together with high-tech corporations, a foundation that promotes student use of the Internet and high school teachers. The project is being carried out with support from Microsoft, IBM, and several colleges. The U.S. Department of Education is funding these programs to fuel a nationwide movement for improved teacher preparation and enhanced readiness of new teachers to effectively guide learning in technology and information-rich environments.

WMU also is a participant, along with four other universities and colleges as partners, in a second PT-3 grant project this year. The initiative, known as P-3, now includes grants to formation and planning forces with more than 900 partners across the country, uniting colleges and universities with elementary and secondary schools, community-based organizations, and technology companies. The U.S. Department of Education is funding these programs to fuel a nationwide movement for improved teacher preparation and enhanced readiness of new teachers to effectively guide learning in technology and information-rich environments.

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The project's director. The first type of PT-3 grant received is one of 110 catalyst grants is for $15,000 a year or $45,000 over three years. The total of both grants over three years is $1,153,211.

Grants to WMU are to a consortium made up of the University, local high- and middle-school teachers, and 122 education and science and fine arts, as well as the Office of Information Technology. The effort is designed to ensure that all WMU students who become certified teachers meet the newly published national technology standards for teachers using and integrating technology in their classrooms.

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Maintaining a leading position as a 100-point writer, Horstman on the Advanced Camp score, which accounts for one third of his overall score, helped push him to the top level of cadet. The additional staff member will be hired to work with about 150 WMU intern teachers who work in 12 Southwest Michigan school districts, as well as with their supervising teachers.

"One of the things that is happening is that technology standards have changed," Lenaway says. "But we are still evolving, as we plan to continue..."
The President Comments

Elson S. Floyd

What a wonderful position we are in at the start of this academic year. So much, it seems, of what we all have been working toward to achieve is becoming reality. This wonderful University is rapidly moving forward and receiving the recognition we all know it deserves.

We’re welcoming our largest-ever freshman class this week, and we face the challenges of meeting the needs of a student body that is now approaching 28,000 students. But we do so with a renewed sense of energy and commitment at a summer that has brought nothing but exciting news for WMU.

Just a few weeks ago, we learned that the new higher education classification system developed by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching has placed this University in its highest classification level—Doctoral/Research Universities—Extensive. Only 90 public universities in the nation are included in this elite group. In Michigan, only three other universities, Michigan State University, the University of Michigan and Wayne State University, made the list. This is truly right where we belong.

All of you who have worked so long and hard to bring the University to this level and keep it moving forward have my heartiest congratulations.

But there are many other developments that kept us progressing steadily forward over the summer. Our local legislative delegation gave us its full support during the state funding process and, as a result, we have a 6.1 percent increase to our general fund budget. That fact enabled us to keep our tuition increase to a modest 3.8 percent.

On June 10 we closed the books on a fiscal year that witnessed record levels of gifts and a phenomenal increase in the scope of our externally funded research. You’ll be hearing much about those developments in the forthcoming issue.

Also, the development of our physical facilities is continuing as planned. Infrastructure development on our new engineering complex and business research and technology park has progressed rapidly. This fall, we’ll be breaking ground on the first building for that site.

Meanwhile, as we begin the year, we are welcoming to the campus 146 new members of our academic staff. They are Frederick J. Dobney, provost and vice president for academic affairs; Alan Walker, vice provost of academic affairs; and three new deans—Dean David England, education; Dean Margaret Merrion, fine arts; and Dean Richard Wright, aviation. We also are starting the academic year with more than 100 new faculty members.

Finally, I must say that I couldn’t be more pleased to be celebrating the beginning of our third year together. It’s a wonderful time in the life of this University and a wonderful time for us to be working together as a community to build West Michigan University into the place we all want it to be.

I know you’ve all been extending welcomed greetings this week to our new and returning students. Let me add my voice of welcome to some of the most important people in the life of this community—the faculty and staff of this University.

Welcome back!
The following employees are recognized for 35, 30, 25, 15, 10 and five years of service to the University during August.

35 years—William C. Appel, music; James J. Bucholc, educational sciences; Loren D. Crane, communication; Clifford O. Davidson, Medical Institute; Helen JeanHealthy, University libraries; George W. Hobbs, health, physical education and recreation; Paul Mergen, art; David A. Morris, admissions and orientation; Peter J. Schutte, history; Rudolf J. Sibert, comparative religion; Donald J. Slocum, physical plant-maintenance services; Diane L. Stephenson, biological sciences; John H. Stroope, English; Constance S. Weaver, English; and Linda Willhite, foreign languages and literatures.

30 years—Thomas C. Bailey, Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; Leonard J. Beving, biological sciences; Joseph T. Buckley, mathematics and statistics; Howard J. Dooley, international affairs; Rollin G. Domou, English; David A. Edel, comparative religion; Sharon M. Piekinger, continuing education; Jeffrey B. Gardiner, foreign languages and literatures; Lyman J. Goes, physical plant; Thomas L. Gunsteen, finance and commercial law; Bruce M. Haight, history; Philip H. Heron, public safety; Richard E. Jones, communication; Robert A. Laing, mathematics and statistics; William F. McCarty, finance and commercial law; Gerald L. Morehouse, physical plant-landscape services; Donald Nelson, computer science; Thomas F. Pagel, communication; Robert H. Poel, science studies; David L. Roselle, acoustics; James T. Schaper, auxiliary enterprises; Thomas Seiler, English; Frank J. Shaw, mathematics and statistics; Judson W. Smith, public safety; Michael B. Strong, information technology; Mary Zwoyer Anderson, counselor education and counseling psychology; Satish Deshpande, biology; Jay S. Gold, business information systems; Judy G. Ingenito, education and administrative services. Members of the Aug. 24 opening date, because some were being used as guest housing up until Sept. 5, should let the Comp 2000 team know by calling 7-3620.

See the full list at www.wmich.edu/hr/Comp2000/.
A summer of changes in the Office of Information Technology, with more still to come, will lead to enhanced computing opportunities and services for faculty, staff and students.

Seven directors will head newly integrated areas of IT. Five already are in place, with their appointments effective July 1. They are: Frances Himes, director of information technology; Rumery; Overberger; Garry Vander Ploeg, director of telecommunications and network services.

In the coming months, a customer satisfaction liaison and a director of systems and operations will be added to the group.

President for Business Operations and liaison and a director of systems and user support; and Garry W. Vander Ploeg, director of telecommunications and network services.

The areas he oversees are support for the University's financial applications such as general ledger, payroll, billing and accounts; the LAN and microcomputing systems, which include University-wide file and print services, desktop and microcomputing environments; microcomputing applications, including technical support for computer labs and data base administration. In the latter role, he has been working recently on implementation of the new KRONOS time-reporting system for University employees.

"We also provide high-level support for departments that have their own technical computing staff," Overberger notes. He has been with WMU for 13 years, coming up through the academic computing side of the University's technical staff.

Rumery is responsible for overseeing IT's business operations. Her areas of focus include budget oversight, personnel issues, contract work and administrative policies and procedures. She also provides administrative support to Murali by interfacing with the staff, as assisting in external communication, working to coordinate the activities of the different units within IT and assisting in planning and management of new initiatives.

Rumery has been a University employee since 1987, serving in the office of the general counsel and vice president for external affairs before transferring to OIT in 1999.

Vander Ploeg is responsible for installing and maintaining WMU's integrated private communications network for voice, data and broadband transmission. This includes oversight of the University-wide cable network that links all WMU buildings as well as the campus-wide telephone and network connections.

He has directed the University's telecommunications efforts since 1989, coming to WMU from a position with the Department of Michigan Telecommunications Division. He is now adding network oversight to his responsibilities, focusing on the future combination of voice and broadband transmission.

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The nearly 400 booths run by campus and community organizations at Bronco Bash this week provided ample opportunities for students, faculty and staff to stock up on dozens of items being given away. Offers ranged from T-shirts and candy to information about how to join wide a range of organizations. (Photo by Neil Simon)